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No. V.

## TRAVELLING PLATFORM.

*The SILVER ISIS MEDAL was voted to Mr. W. JONES, 6 Horseshoe Court, Ludgate Hill, for his Travelling Platform; a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.*

MR. JONES calls his platform a travelling one, because it is capable of travelling on, or is movable on, the rope by which it is suspended, and will remain fixed at any height, according to the will of the person who is on the platform.

The platform itself is just capable of holding one person, and is composed of two flaps of oak, strongly hinged together, opening and closing upwards, and at rest in a position in which the flaps are slightly inclined to each other. Beneath each flap is a projecting piece or bracket, placed so that they touch by their outer edge when the flaps are at rest. In the middle of the platform is cut a round hole, capable of receiving a stout rope, half of the circle being cut in one flap and half in the other. The rope, passing through the hole, is gripped by the two brackets with a force equal to the weight of the person on the platform, at the same time that the rope separates the brackets so far that the two flaps are brought in the same plane, and consequently the platform becomes level. On the upper part of the platform are two loops with straps and buckles, to secure the feet of the person on the platform, who also is furnished with a

leathern belt, having a ring inserted, through which the rope passes; and thus, being secured by three points, he is at full liberty to use his hands without the necessity of holding on by either of them.

In descending, the person lets himself down hand under hand, at the same time slightly raising his feet to bring the brackets to be clear of the rope. When he wishes to remain stationary he has only to loose his hands from the rope, and then the weight of his body causes the platform to grip the rope. If he wishes to ascend, he raises his feet a little and pulls himself up, laying hold of the rope hand over hand, resting himself when tired, by restoring the grip on the rope, as already mentioned.

Mr. Jones considers that his invention may be useful in executing work in front of a house where it would be unsafe to fix a ladder; in ascending or descending the face of a cliff in search of birds' eggs, &c.; in lining the inside of a well or shaft; and as a portable fire-ladder.

*Description of the Engraving.*

Fig. 1 is a top view; fig. 2, an end view; and fig. 3, a side view, much smaller, with a man standing on it.

This platform is made of two brackets *a* and *b*, united by the hinges *c c*. In fig. 2 are shewn the lower parts *dd* of the brackets: these become jaws, which the weight of the man on the sides *a b* causes to grip the rope *f* so tight as to prevent their sliding down it. The hole *e* is large enough to slide freely on the rope; and as the man's feet are strapped to the boards *a* and *b*, when he holds the rope with his hands and raises his feet, the jaws *dd* will open, as shewn by dotted lines, and allow the platform to slide up; and on his attempting to stand

up, they will again grip the rope and let him raise himself. The strap *g* round his waist, with the ring *h*, keeps him to the rope, and liberates his hands: his toes go under the straps *i i*, whilst the straps *j j* buckle round his ankles. The rope should be fixed at bottom very tight whenever practicable, to prevent his head and shoulders falling so much back as otherwise they would do, and keep him from swinging about. When not fixed, a weight, or bag of weights, *k*, the heavier the better, should be tied to the bottom, to keep him as nearly upright as possible, and to keep the rope down when he raises his feet to climb.

